GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:532
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2002
INLAND WATER TRANSPORT
YEMPARALA VENKATESWARA RAO

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the new initiative of the Government inland water transport is likely to complement the expensive and very strained surface transport;

(b) if so, the details of the new initiative ; and

(c) the manner in which inland water transport is likely to be improved?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) With a view to giving an impetus to IWT sector and to encourage private sector participation in IWT infrastructure development and ownership and operation of inland vessels, the government has approved the IWT Policy wherein several policy measures and incentives to private sector have been included. To bring in more traffic in the Inland Water Transport mode, the Government has provided for tax exemption to investors. Rate of depreciation for all vessels operating in National Waterways has been fixed at 25% at par with ocean going vessels. Several projects for fairway improvement and river training work have been initiated and at present work is going on for construction of permanent terminal at vital Inland Water locations. To boost traffic, Government has introduced a Vessel Building Subsidy Scheme granting 30% subsidy for Inland Water Vessels built in Indian Shipyards.